



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-9497-3]

Proposed Consent Decree, Clean Air Act Citizen Suit

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of Proposed Consent Decree; Request for Public Comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 113(g) of the Clean Air Act, as amended ("CAA" or the "Act"), 42 U.S.C. 7413(g), notice is hereby given of a proposed consent decree to address a lawsuit filed by El Comité para el Bienestar de Earlimart and Association of Irrigated Residents (collectively "Plaintiffs") in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California: El Comité para el Bienestar de Earlimart, et al. v. Jackson, No. 11-cv-3779 (N.D. Cal). On August 1, 2011, Plaintiffs filed a complaint alleging that EPA failed to perform a mandatory duty under section 110(k)(2) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. 7410(k)(2) to take timely final action to approve, disapprove, or partially approve/disapprove the proposed state implementation plan commitment for the San Joaquin Valley, as well as regulations pertaining to field fumigation methods, pesticide emission inventory, and field fumigation limits. The proposed consent decree establishes a deadline for EPA to take action.

DATES: Written comments on the proposed consent decree must be received by [insert date 30 days after publication date].

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID number EPA-HQ-OGC-2011-0930, online at www.regulations.gov (EPA's preferred method); by e-mail to oei.docket@epa.gov; by mail to EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode: 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001; or by

hand delivery or courier to EPA Docket Center, EPA West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. Comments on a disk or CD-ROM should be formatted in Word or ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption, and may be mailed to the mailing address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jan Tierney, Air and Radiation Law Office (2344A), Office of General Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone: (202) 564-5598; fax number (202) 564-5603; email address: tierney.jan@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Additional information about the proposed consent decree.

The proposed consent decree would resolve a lawsuit seeking to compel the Administrator to take timely final action under section 110(k) of the CAA to approve, disapprove, or partially approve/disapprove the proposed state implementation plan commitment for the San Joaquin Valley (Pesticide Element SIP Submittal), as well as regulations pertaining to field fumigation methods, pesticide emission inventory, and field fumigation limits (Fumigant Rules SIP Submittal), which were submitted to EPA on October 12, 2009. The proposed consent decree requires that no later than April 15, 2012, EPA shall sign a notice or notices of the Agency's proposed action or actions on the Revised Pesticide Element SIP Submittal and the Fumigant Rules SIP Submittal pursuant to Section 110(k) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. 7410(k). The proposed consent decree further provides that no later than August 15, 2012, EPA shall sign a notice or notices of the Agency's final action or actions on the Revised Pesticide Element SIP Submittal and

the Fumigant Rules SIP Submittal pursuant to Section 110(k) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. 7410(k). No later than 15 business days following signature, EPA shall send the notice or notices to the Office of the Federal Register for review and publication in the Federal Register. After EPA fulfills its obligations under the decree, the parties shall file a joint request to the Court to dismiss this matter with prejudice.

For a period of thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, the Agency will accept written comments relating to the proposed consent decree from persons who were not named as parties or intervenors to the litigation in question. EPA or the Department of Justice may withdraw or withhold consent to the proposed consent decree if the comments disclose facts or considerations that indicate that such consent is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with the requirements of the Act. Unless EPA or the Department of Justice determines that consent to this consent decree should be withdrawn, the terms of the decree will be affirmed.

II. Additional information about commenting on the proposed consent decree.

A. How Can I Get A Copy Of the Consent Decree?

The official public docket for this action (identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OGC-2011-0930) contains a copy of the proposed consent decree. The official public docket is available for public viewing at the Office of Environmental Information (OEI) Docket in the EPA Docket Center, EPA West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the OEI

Docket is (202) 566-1752.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through www.regulations.gov. You may use www.regulations.gov to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, key in the appropriate docket identification number then select “search”.

It is important to note that EPA’s policy is that public comments, whether submitted electronically or in paper, will be made available for public viewing online at www.regulations.gov without change, unless the comment contains copyrighted material, CBI, or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Information claimed as CBI and other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute is not included in the official public docket or in the electronic public docket. EPA’s policy is that copyrighted material, including copyrighted material contained in a public comment, will not be placed in EPA’s electronic public docket but will be available only in printed, paper form in the official public docket. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the EPA Docket Center.

B. How and To Whom Do I Submit Comments?

You may submit comments as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section. Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be marked “late.” EPA is not required to consider these late comments.

If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your

name, mailing address, and an e-mail address or other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD ROM you submit. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the comment and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your comment. Any identifying or contact information provided in the body of a comment will be included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

Use of the www.regulations.gov website to submit comments to EPA electronically is EPA's preferred method for receiving comments. The electronic public docket system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. In contrast to EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's electronic mail (e-mail) system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an e-mail comment directly to the Docket without going through www.regulations.gov, your e-mail address is automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket.

Kevin McLean,
Acting Associate General Counsel.

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